

Statement by Representative Ken Horn on House Bill 4745  
House Military, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security Committee, July 25, 2007:

I appreciate the work of the sponsor in recognizing families of Michigan's fallen soldiers. Our hearts are certainly with all of the families who suffer the grievous loss of a defender of our liberties.

While I did not quickly dismiss the need for action on House Bill 4745 after compelling testimony in a previous committee, I did want to learn more about the scope of the problem the sponsor is trying to address. After that meeting, I asked the sponsor this question and I would like to share it with the committee:

How many incidents have we faced in the State of Michigan among the 150+ fallen soldiers we mourn where a spouse or parent was not granted leave by their employer?

The sponsor initiated some research and to date, as far as we can tell, there are no incidents in which a family was not allowed to grieve.

It seems to me that without more information, we have over 150 triumphs of human compassion. As a former business owner, I would think we would all commend our neighbors, who own businesses and are job providers, for the care and sympathy they've shown for our heroes and their families in times of need. In every case that we are currently aware of, we have been able to count on our job providers as kind and considerate friends.

In these stressful economic times, we should graciously invite businesses to make their homes in Michigan. And while I recognize that this bill is designed to bring some security to families in mourning, I am concerned that we are creating a solution to a problem that doesn't exist. For this reason, I intend to pass on this bill and sincerely thank the maker of the bill for all of his hard work on this issue.

Representative Kenneth B. Horn